

*For Immediate Release*

## Indiana Department of Correction Hosts Vanderburgh County Re-entry Town Hall Meeting

Indianapolis, Indiana (September 26, 2008)—This week in Evansville, Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) Commissioner Edwin G. Buss hosted his first Re-entry Town Hall Meeting as Commissioner. IDOC re-entry initiatives and the impact on re-entry to Vanderburgh County were the main topics addressed during the meeting.

Commissioner Buss reminded the audience made up of community partners, corrections officials, and members of the local judiciary that successful offender re-entry is paramount to the IDOC. “We all must work together to make sure that we try to bring down the barriers to successful offender re-entry, such as employment, housing, and transportation, for the 705 offenders who were released to Vanderburgh County from the Department of Correction last year,” stated Commissioner Buss.



Commissioner Buss and Director Burch present during the Town Hall meeting.

The Commissioner also discussed how IDOC has dealt with sex offender issues by helping drive legislation that makes sex offender treatment during incarceration mandatory. “We need community support to face the problems with the placement of released sex offenders who have paid their debt to society,” commented Commissioner Buss.

Lastly, Commissioner Buss talked about the new programs and partnerships with other state agencies to allow more re-entry services to be provided. He spoke specifically on the partnerships with the Access to Recovery Grant, Volunteers of America, Community

Corrections, and local judiciary. In wrapping up a question and answer session, Commissioner Buss challenged the audience by saying, “We must continue to forge partnerships in order to ensure that there are sufficient opportunities for offenders being released to Vanderburgh County”



A member of the audience asks a question during the meeting.

As a discussion between the Department of Correction, local officials, community providers, and concerned citizens, the meeting demonstrated that re-entry is everyone’s business.

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